

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**ABC Launches \$356,400 Federal Grant to Fight Underage Drinking**

*Grant comes from U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

**Sacramento** – The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has been awarded a \$356,400 grant by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to combat alcohol-related problems on or near college campuses throughout California. The award was made through the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) program, which supports activities in law enforcement, public education programs, and innovative methods for reaching youth.

This grant authorizes enforcement at or near college events where underage drinking is suspected during college events such as pledge week, graduation, sporting events, fraternity/sorority parties, and any other college related functions.

"We need to do everything in our power to protect the futures of our youth," said ABC Chief Deputy Director Tim Gorsuch. "This funding will support law enforcement and community efforts to curb underage drinking and save lives."

ABC conducted six operations on or near five college campuses in December, 2010 and January 2011. During these operations, officers issued 30 citations for various underage drinking violations including open containers, minors in possession and furnishing alcohol to minors.

The grant program will cover a two-year period and was awarded to ABC by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) to pay overtime for ABC Investigators. The goal is to increase safety and reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

The grant program will support a wide range of activities including compliance checks of retail alcohol outlets to reduce sales to minors, crackdowns on false identification, programs to reduce older youth or adults from providing alcohol to minors, "party patrols" to prevent access to alcohol at large youth gatherings, and "cops in shops" to deter minors' attempts to purchase alcohol.

ABC will identify events and locations where the grant money can help reduce underage drinking by conducting undercover operations such as minor decoy and shoulder tap decoy operations.

The EUDL grant program activities will run through, May, 2012. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.